CONSPECTUS

OF

Geography of the Holy Land

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I.

THE THREE-FOLD VALUE OF A KNOWLEDGE OF SACRED GEOGRAPHY.

1. For *Illustration* of Christian experience.

   Egypt, the land of Bondage; Sinai, the land of Training, and Canaan, the land of Promise—illustrate slavery to sin, the disciplinary journey of life, and the heavenly inheritance of God's people. For instance, the allusions in the hymn, "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah.

2. For *Explanation* of Holy Scripture.

   The Bible reflects the country. To learn the land is to apprehend the whole setting of divine truth and to appreciate the force of many statements and allusions which could otherwise have little or no meaning for us, *e. g.*, faith required for the conquest of West Palestine; contest between Jehovah and Baal at Mt. Carmel; sudden storms on Sea of Galilee; Matt. 7:24, "upon *the* rock."

3. For *Confirmation* of the truth of the Bible.

   The more we know of the places in which the events of Jewish history occurred, the more we feel that we are treading on the solid ground of real history. The Land and the People and the Book constitute a trinity of truth, and the testimony of each is strengthened by that of the other two.

II.

THE RELATION OF PALESTINE TO GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE.

The Land of Promise was preconfigured to its history. By its location and structure it was peculiarly adapted to God's purpose of preparing a pure religion through centuries of separation, and then of publishing that religion to the whole world.

In order to the accomplishment of these ends three things were necessary under the conditions which obtained after the Fall and the Flood:

1. A single nation had to be chosen as the special depositary of divine truth, and this nation had to be separated from all other nations in order that this truth might be preserved and developed in its purity, uncontaminated by "the foul and degrading polytheism of the heathen world."

2. This nation had to be set in the center of the world, so that when the fulness of time was come the saving truth which it possessed might be most easily published to all mankind, thus evincing that Israel had been secluded not merely for its own sake but for the sake of the whole world.

3. The record of this truth thus prepared and published had to be such as would fit it for world-wide dissemination; that is to say, the book which contained this revelation had to be a universal book, not local or sectional, but possessing such a range of imagery and style as would make it easily understood by men of every race in every land.

Now Palestine was the only country on the globe that could comply with these conditions, being singularly secluded from all other lands, and

yet occupying the most central position among the nations of antiquity, and at the same time possessing the extraordinary range of climate and products and pursuits which were requisite to fit it for the production of the world's book.

Palestine then was *Isolated, Central,* and *Cosmopolitan*:

1. The *Isolation* of the country was secured by natural barriers of desert, river, sea, and mountain.

2. It was not only secluded but *Central.* It was the focal point of the ancient world. It commanded access to three great continents, Europe, Asia and Africa. It was therefore fitted as no other land on earth was to be the radiating center of a universal religion.

3. The world-wide diffusion of the Gospel had to be effected chiefly by means of a written record. That record must not only speak to the universal heart of man by its essential truth but must also have such characteristics of form as would adapt it to the ready understanding of all men in all lands. The structure of Palestine fitted it pre-eminently to produce such a book. The country was *Cosmopolitan.* Small as it was, yet for diversity of surface, range of climate, and variety of products it has no parallel. Accordingly the illustrations drawn from nature, with which the Bible abounds are suited to all climes and understood by all men. They are all at home amid the imagery of Scripture. It is the world's book.

III.

TEN PEGS TO HANG THINGS ON.

(Condensed in part from Hurlbut's Manual of Biblical Geography.)

I. LINES AND WATERS. (Map I.)

1. Characteristics of
   - (1) Coast Line. Harborlessness.
   - (2) Jordan Line. Tortuousness.

2. Bodies of Water.
   - (1) Med. or "*Great* Sea."
   - (2) Merom. High.
   - (3) Galilee. Historical interest.
   - (4) "Salt Sea." Physical interest.

Cape on C. L. one-third the distance from top of map.

Second lake on J. L. directly opposite this cape.

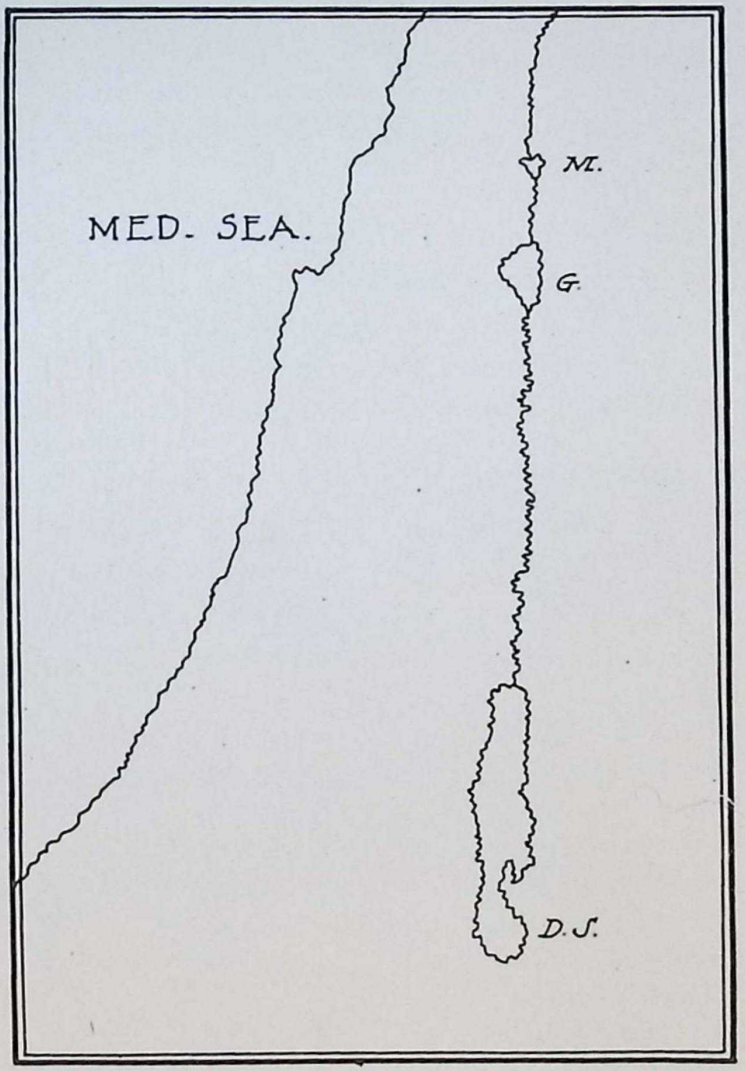
Distance between second and third lakes six times that between first and second.

II. NAMES AND DISTANCES.

1. Names: (1) Ca. (2) Isr. (3) Jud. (4) Pal.
   (2) and (3) from Chosen People;
   (1) and (4) from enemies of Chosen People.

MAP I.

Lines and Waters



2. Distances: (1) C. L. 180
(2) J. L. 160
(3) J. to Med..... 25
(4) D. S. to Med..... 90
(5) D. to B.....144

(7) E. Pal. 4,500 sq. m.
(6) W. Pal. 6,000 sq. m.
} Total area 10,500 sq. m.

III. NATURAL DIVISIONS. (Map II.)

1. M. P. (Maritime Plain.)
2. W. H. (Western Highlands.)
3. J. V. (Jordan Valley.)
4. E. H. (Eastern Highlands.)

IV. MOUNTAINS.

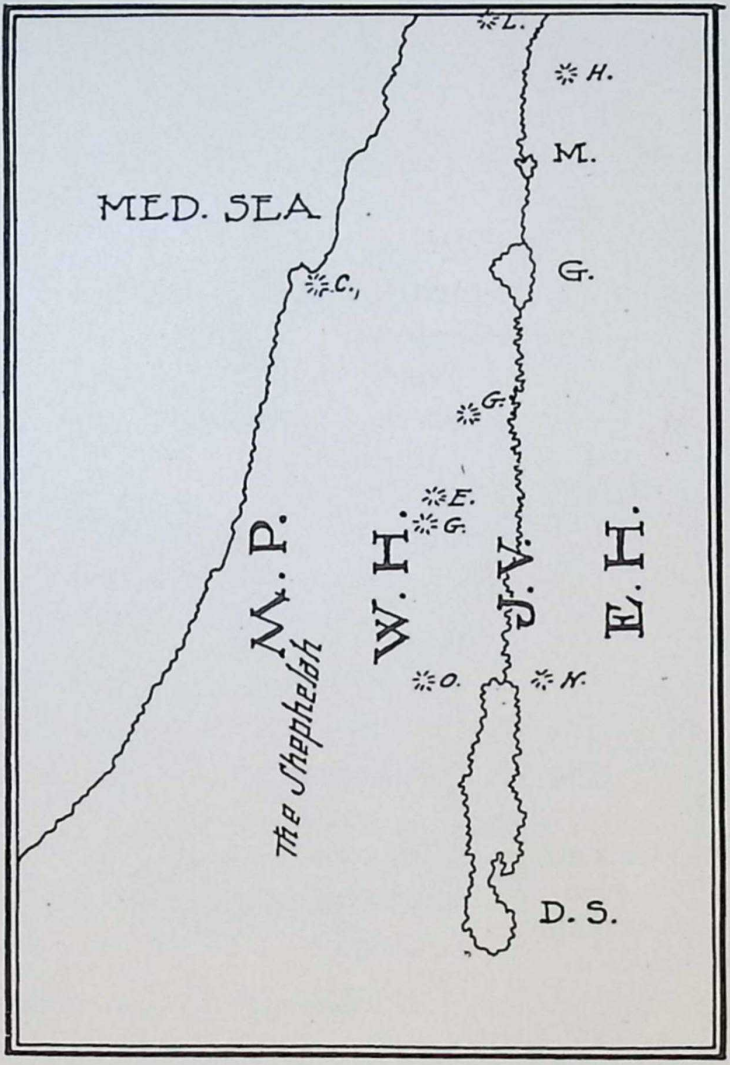
1. H. (Transfiguration) and L. (Cedars)
2. C. (Elijah) and G. (Saul)
3. E. (Curses) and G. (Blessings)
4. O. (Ascension) and N. (Moses).

V. ELEVATIONS.

Hermon	9,200	ft. above	Med.
Ebal	3,076	" "	"
Gerizim	2,848	" "	"
Shechem	1,672	" "	"
Jerusalem	2,600	" "	"
Hebron	3,040	" "	"
Lake Merom	7	" "	"
Sea of Galilee	682	" below	"
Dead Sea	1,292	" "	"

MAP II.

Natural Divisions and Mountains



VI. PLACES. (Map III.)

1. In Maritime Plain.
   - (1) G—Samson
   - (2) J—Jonah
   - (3) C—Paul
   - (4) T—Sea trade

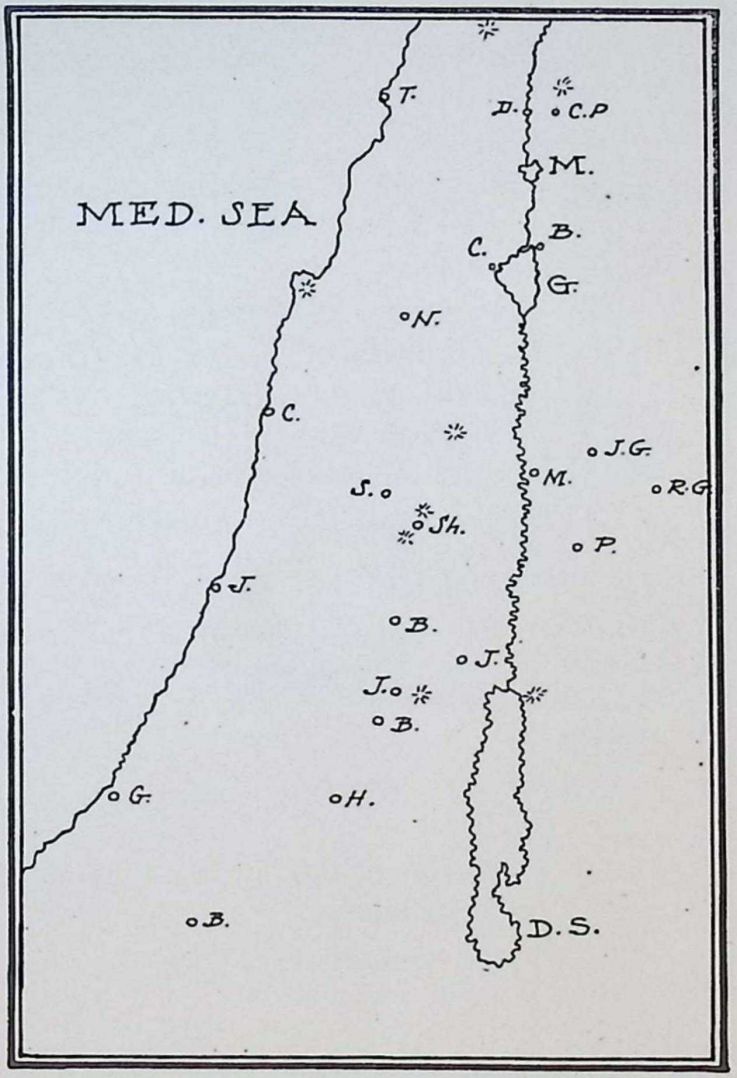
2. In Western Highlands.
   - (1) B—Oath
   - (2) H—Tomb
   - (3) B—Birthplace of Jesus
   - (4) J—Capital
   - (5) B—Jacob, Beth-el
   - (6) Sh—Woman of Samaria
   - (7) S—Capital
   - (8) N—Boyhood home of Jesus

3. In Jordan Valley.
   - (1) J—Walls
   - (2) C—Home of Christ.
   - (3) B—5,000 fed
   - (4) D—Northernmost

4. In Eastern Highlands.
   - (1) P. —Jacob (Peni-el)
   - (2) R. G.—Jehu
   - (3) M. —David
   - (4) J. G.—Saul
   - (5) C. P.—Peter's Confession.

MAP III.

Places.



VII. TRIBAL DIVISIONS. (Map IV.)

S—least important
J—most important
B—had the capital
D—Samson. Conquest of Laish
E—Haughty
M (half)—Carmel
I —Esdraelon
Z—Judg. 5:14, 18—fought
A—Judg. 5:17—shirked
N—Is. 9:1.
R—Dibon (Moabite Stone)
G—Ramoth Gilead
M (half)—Largest territory
} Pastoral

VIII. PROVINCES (Roman Period)

J., S., G., P., B (Philip's Tetrarchy).

IX. THE FOUR MAIN RIVERS OF SYRIA.

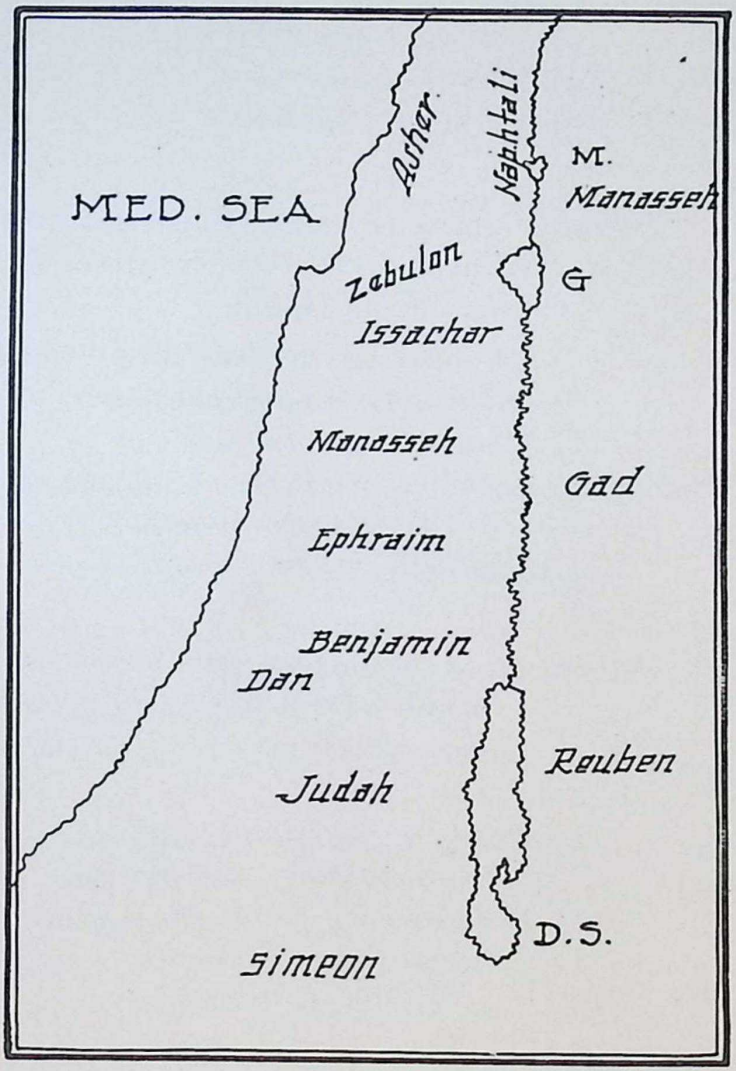
1. Orontes—Antioch—Seleucia
2. Litany—Tyre—Phoenicia
3. Barada—Damascus—Syria
4. Jordan.....Israel.

X. JOURNEYS OF JESUS. (Hurlbut, pp. 103-111.)

1. *Period of Preparation,* 30 years, from Birth to Baptism.
   (1) Presentation in Temple.
   (2) Flight into Egypt.
   (3) Settlement at Nazareth.
   (4) Visit to Temple.

MAP IV.

Tribal Divisions.



2. *Period of Inauguration,* 15 months, from Baptism to Rejection at Nazareth.

(1) Baptism.
(2) Temptation.
(3) Wedding Feast.
(4) First Passover.
(5) Return to Galilee.

3. *Period of Early Galilean Ministry,* 4 months, from Rejection at Nazareth to Sermon on the Mount.

(1) Opening of the Ministry—Cana to Nazareth and Capernaum.
(2) Tour in Eastern Galilee.
(3) Second Passover—Capernaum to Jerusalem and Return.
(4) Sermon on the Mount.

4. *Period of Later Galilean Ministry,* 10 months, from the Sermon on the Mount to the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

(1) Tour in Southern Galilee—Capernaum to Nain and Return.
(2) Gadarene Voyage—Capernaum to Gergesa and Return.
(3) Tour in Central Galilee—Capernaum to Nazareth and Return.
(4) Retirement to Bethsaida.

5. *Period of Retirement,* 6 months, from the Feeding of the Five Thousand to the Feast of Tabernacles.

(1) Capernaum to Phoenicia.
(2) Phoenicia to Decapolis.
(3) Decapolis to Caesarea Philippi.
(4) Caesarea Philippi to Capernaum.

6. *Period of Judaean Ministry,* 3 months, from the Feast of Tabernacles to the Feast of Dedication.

(1) Galilee to Jerusalem.
(2) Jerusalem to Bethabara.

7. *Period of Peraean Ministry,* 4 months, from the Feast of Dedication to the Anointing at Bethany.

(1) To Bethany (from Bethabara).
(2) Retirement at Ephraim.
(3) Journey in Peraea.
(4) Jericho to Bethany.

8. *Period of the Passion,* 8 days, from the Anointing at Bethany to the Resurrection.

(1), (2), (3) From Bethany to Temple and Return.
(4) From Bethany to the Supper.

(5) From the Supper to Gethsemane.
(6) From Gethsemane to the House of Caiaphas.
(7) From Caiaphas to Pilate's Praetorium.
(8) From Pilate to Herod and Return.
(9) From Pilate to Calvary.

9. *Period of the Resurrection,* 40 days, from the Resurrection to the Ascension.

The ten Appearances of the Risen Christ:

Jerusalem, Emmaus, Sea of Galilee, Mountain in Galilee, Bethany.

IV.

SYLLABUS

OF

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF PALESTINE.

Literature.—G. A. Smith, Hist. Geog. of Holy Land, $3.75; A. P. Stanley, Sinai and Palestine, $2.50; Wm. Miller, The Least of All Lands, about $1.50; G. A. Smith, Jerusalem, 2 vols., $6.00; J. G. Bartholomew and G. A. Smith, Atlas of the Hist. Geog. of the Holy Land, $7.50; J. G. Bartholomew and G. A. Smith, Topographical and Physical Map of Palestine, 4 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. $5.00.

I. The Maritime Plain.

1. Three Sections.
2. World's highway.
3. No good harbor.
4. *The Story*: Peter and Cornelius, Joppa and Caesarea, Acts 10-11:18.

II. The Shephelah.

1. Distinct from M. P. and W. H.
2. Cross Valleys: (1) Ajalon, (2) Sorek, (3) Elah, (4) Afranj, (5) Hesy.
3. *The Story*: (1) Samson, (2) David.
4. Note also Beth Horon, Beth Shemesh, Adullam, Mareshah (Micah), and Lachish.

III. Galilee.

1. *Four Divisions.* (1) Jordan Valley, in three divisions—below the Lake, the Lake itself, and above the Lake—from which three corresponding belts run westward: (2) Esdraelon,

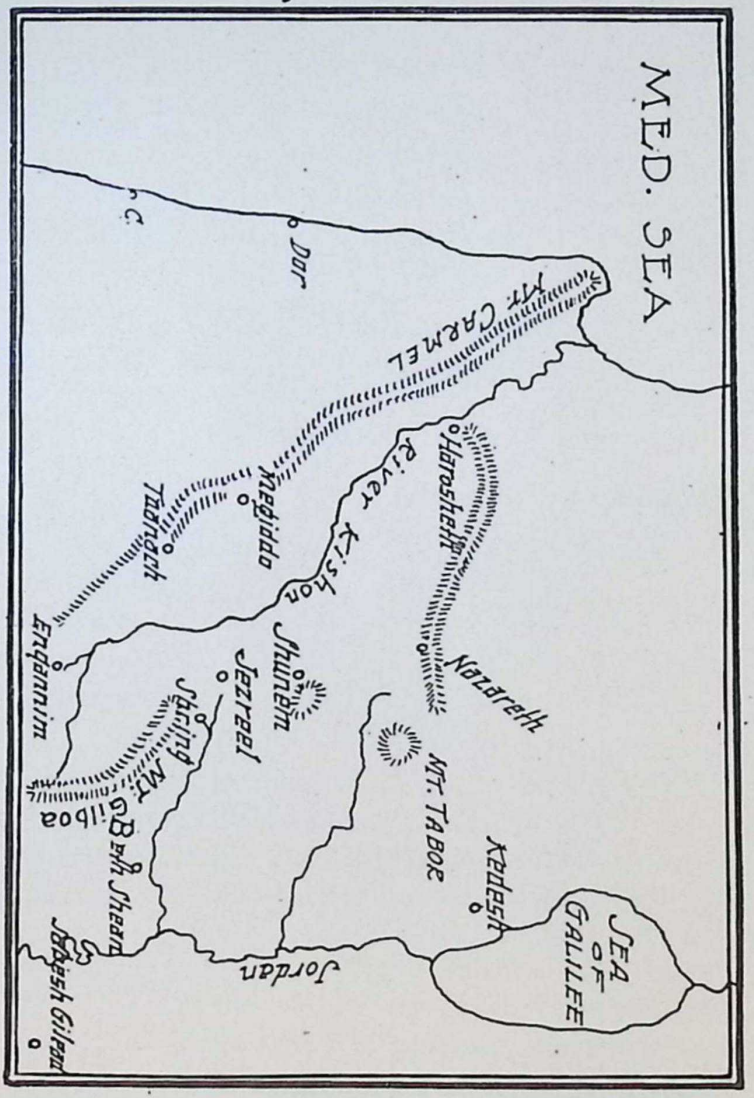
(3) Lower Galilee, series of parallel ranges, all below 1,850 feet, (4) Upper Galilee, series of plateaus surrounded by mountains from 2,000 to 4,000 feet. So that, looking from Samaria, three zones rise in steps above one another to the beginnings of Lebanon.

2. *Dependence on Lebanons.* Hos. 14:5. Water. Fertility.
3. *Populous.* Crowds about Christ.
4. *Volcanic,* country and people alike.
5. *Patriotic.* Historic sites, Messianic hope, Is. 9:1.
6. *Roads.* Contrast Judaea. The characters in the Parables.
7. *Busy and gay environment* of Greek provinces. Contrast austere environment of Judaea. Effect on temperament. (Galilee *of the Gentiles.*)
8. *Nazareth.* Jesus' outlook on past and present.
9. *The Lake* the focus of Galilee's dominant features. Chief scene of Christ's Ministry. Nine cities then, but one now. Open air life. Fisherman, Centurion, Publican.
10. *The Story:* (1) Shunem. Song of Songs.
    (2) Shunem. Elisha, 2 Kings 4:8-37.
    (3) Capernaum. Home of Christ.

IV. Esdraelon. (Map V.)

1. Triangle, 20x15x15. Three breaks across east side.
2. War path of Empires or prey of Arabs, it has never enjoyed the independence of the highlands. Issachar, Gen. 49:14.

MAP V.
Plain of Esdraelon



3. Five Entrances (gates on the great road from Asia to Africa): three at the corners of the triangle, one at Jezreel, and one at Megiddo. (Connection with the coast was *South* not *North* of Carmel.)

4. *The Story.* Four Battles:
   (1) Deborah and Barak, Judg. 4-5.
   (2) Gideon, Judg. 6-7.
   (3) Saul, 1 Sam. 28-31.
   (4) Josiah, 2 Ki. 23:29-30; 2 Chron. 35:20-25.

Hence Armageddon (Ar or Har Megiddo, city or mountain of Megiddo), Rev. 16:16.

V. Samaria.

1. Prominent Features:
   (1) *Openness.* Frequently invaded. Easy for chariots. More forward to attract than Judaea, but less able to retain.
   (2) *Central and Dominant Position.* Shechem not Jerusalem the natural centre of the land; but weak, no fortress.
   (3) *Connection with Eastern Palestine.* Reason: Easy passes and numerous fords. Contrast the steep chasm and few and dangerous fords between Judaea and E. P.

2. *The Story:*
   (1) Jacob at Bethel.
   (2) Joshua at Shechem.

(3) Samuel at Shiloh.
(4) Elijah at Mt. Carmel.
(5) Jehu at Jezreel.
(6) Jesus at Jacob's Well. (The Samaritans.)

VI. Judaea.

1. *The heart of the land.* Isolated, unattractive, provincial, conservative, she held the world off longest. Seat of Israel's one enduring dynasty, site of her temple, platform of all her chief prophets. Sepulchre, sanctuary, stronghold.

Scenes of Christ's birth, temptation, more painful ministry, agony and death.

2. *Borders and Bulwarks.*

(1) East—Dead Sea Valley. Difficult approaches by Jericho and En-gedi.

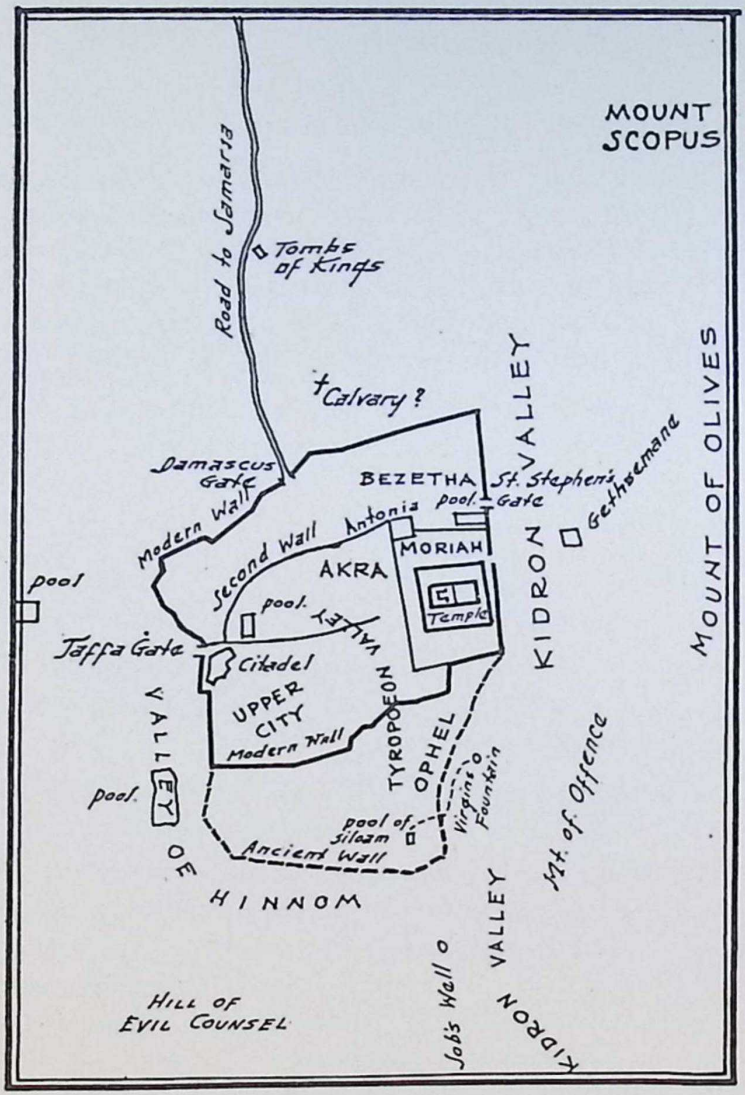
(2) South—The Negeb. Sixty miles of steep ridges, across which no military roads—had to go east or west.

(3) West—the edge of the Western Highlands, penetrated by defensible defiles.

(4) North—the fortresses of Benjamin. Ten northernmost miles of Judaean plateau the most accessible frontier—hence many battles. Three roads converge upon its northern border (3 miles south of Bethel), covered by Michmash, Geba, Ramah, and Gibeon.

MAP VI.

JERUSALEM



3. *Outstanding Features.*

(1) Pastoral character. Ps. 23. Jno. 10:1-16.

(2) Vine culture. Numb. 13:23. Grapes on Maccabean coins. Gilt cluster over temple door. Jno. 15:1.

(3) Proximity to desert—"living next door to doom." Jer. 4:26.

(4) Natural unfitness for the growth of a great city—"aloof, waterless, on the road to nowhere." Yet here arose the city which has taught the world civic justice and has given her name to the ideal city hoped for on earth—the New Jerusalem.

VII. Jerusalem. (Map VI.)

Points certainly known:

1. Mount of Olives.
2. Valley of Kidron.
3. Temple stood on the hill west of Kidron.
4. About where "the castle" (Antonia) was, Acts 21:34.
5. Southern extension of Temple Hill was called Ophel.
6. Tyropoeon Valley up to the prong.
7. Pool of Siloam.
8. Valley of Hinnom.
9. The "Upper City" of Josephus was on the Southwest Hill (Called Zion since 4th century A. D.)

Points not certainly known:

1. Mt. Zion—City of David (see 9 above). Some put it on Ophel. Solomon brought the ark *up* from Zion to Moriah. 1 Ki. 8:1.
2. Limits of Temple area.
3. Gihon. Some put it west of City, others at the Virgin's Fountain. 2 Chron. 33:14.
4. Bethesda. John 5:1.
5. En Rogel. Josh. 15:7; 18:16; 2 Sam. 17:17.
6. The Stone of Zoheleth. 1 Ki. 1:9.
7. Line of Second Wall in time of Christ.
8. Site of the Holy Sepulchre.

VIII. The Jordan Valley.

1. *Upper Jordan.* Receives three-fourths of Hermon's waters.

Four sources of Jordan:

(1) Bareighit, from northwest.
(2) Hasbany, longest.
(3) Leddan, heaviest, from Tel-el-kadi (Dan).
(4) Banias, most impressive. Caesarea Philippi.

Huleh. Waters of Merom, Josh. 11:5-6. Swamps and jungles of papyrus.

From Huleh Jordan falls 680 feet in less than 9 miles to Sea of Galilee. Jordan means *Descender.*

2. *Sea of Galilee.* Deep basin. Torrid climate. Sudden storms. Fertile soil. Dense population. Busy industries, especially fisheries. (See Syllabus on Galilee.)

3. *Lower Jordan.*

(1) The Ghor. A rift 65 miles long, 3 to 14 M. wide, expanding twice to the dimensions of a plain, at Bethshan and at Jericho. Fertile in places, but much salty, desolate soil.

(2) The Zor. A narrower hollow, 150 ft. deeper, 200 yds. to a mile wide, winding within the Ghor. Here is a rank jungle—"the Pride ('Swelling') of Jordan," always a symbol of trouble and danger, Jer. 12:5; 49:19. Large trees in Elisha's time. 2 Ki. 6:1-7.

(3) The River itself, down between ugly mud banks, a rapid, coffee colored, zigzag current, about 100 ft. wide, 3 to 10 ft. deep. 2 Ki. 5:12.

(4) Few towns because of (a) Heat, (b) Wild beasts, and (c) Arabs.

(5) Two functions of Jordan in Biblical History:

(a) A border and a barrier. Name nearly always governed by a preposition, *unto, over, across.*

(b) Associated with the washing by water and the gift of the Spirit—Elisha, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus.

4. *Dead Sea.*

(1) Saltness. Bitter. Buoyant. No fish can live in it.

(2) Were the Cities of the Plain (Gen. 14:1-10; 19:17-29) at the northern end of the Sea or the southern?

(3) Means employed in their destruction?

(4) Ezekiel's Vision of waters from the Temple healing the Dead Sea. Ezek. 47:1-12.

5. *The Story.*

(1) Destruction of the Cities of the Plain. Gen. 19:17-29.

(2) Israel's Crossing of the Jordan. Josh. 3.

(3) Fall of Jericho. Josh. 6.

(4) Conquest of Laish (Dan), Judg. 17-18.

(5) Ministry of Jesus at the Sea of Galilee.

IX. The Eastern Highlands.

1. Rugged. Wooded in parts. But mostly pastoral.

2. *The Story*:

(1) Jacob at Peni-el. Gen. 32.

(2) Defeat and death of Absalom. 2 Sam. 18.

(3) The Fortress of Ramoth Gilead.

(4) Peter's Confession. Matt. 16:13-19.

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